

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

March 29, 2026

## PALM SUNDAY

*of the Lord's Passion*



**Pastor**..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon**.....*Robert A. Reiley*  
**Parish Council President** ..... *John Crane*  
**E-mail**.....johncrane1@mac.com  
**Choir Director/Organist** .....*David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator**..... *Tina Seiger*  
**Rectory** ..... (570) 622-5470  
**Rectory Fax** ..... (570) 622-4589  
**E-mail**.....stjbparish@comcast.net  
**Nativity BVM High School** ..... (570) 622-8110  
**Assumption BVM Elementary**..... (570) 622-0106  
**St. Joseph Center**..... (570) 622-4638

**Cemetery Information**..... (570) 622-5470

#### C.C.D.

All children preparing to receive any sacrament must be in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving a Sacrament. The child must also be a practicing Catholic.

#### Certificates of Eligibility

Certificates to act as sponsors, Godparents, etc. will only be issued to parishioners who are formally registered with the church and attend Mass on a regular basis.

#### Bulletin Deadline

Monday prior to publication

#### New Parishioners

Please call the rectory for an appointment to register.

#### Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays..... 4:15 to 4:45 p.m..  
 Sundays ..... 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..  
 or by appointment

#### Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

#### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.  
 Baptismal Preparation for Parents must precede the Baptism.  
 Please contact Father Bobbin for an appointment.

#### Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., N.C.C.,L.P.C. .... (800) 791-9209

#### Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

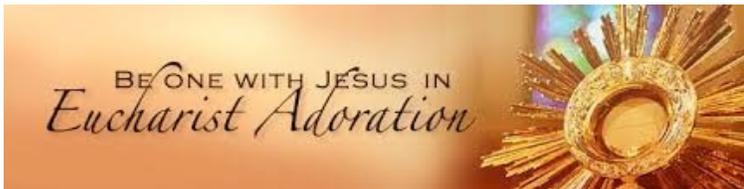
Pamela J. Russo, M.S.W., M.S.  
 Secretary, Youth Protection and Catholic Human Services  
 P.O. Box F, Allentown, PA 18105-1538  
 610-871-5200 ext. 2204  
 prusso@allentowndiocese.org

#### Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service

1-800-276-1562      www.ReportBishopAbuse.org

#### Diocese of Allentown Website

www.allentowndiocese.org



## Eucharistic Adoration

We offer opportunities to spend time in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament ...

- ◆ A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This is a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

## Communion for the Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

### Pray

We remember in prayer those who are ill or recently deceased. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

**For our Sick:** *Sherri Post, Tom Jefferson, Kathy Vivic  
 Doug Broughton, Jane Baker, Beth Ann Clark.*

**For our Deceased:** *Virginia Visot, Sandra Bosche*

**"Note: We will keep names on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please let us know if you would like your name or your family member's name to remain on the list longer."**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 28

5:00 p.m. R.J. Post  
(Bob, Irene, Sandi, Sheri, R.J. Post III)

### Sunday, March 29

8:15 a.m. Mary Connell

### Sunday, March 29

10:30 a.m. Thomas Bartashus  
(Nativity Baseball Team)

### Monday, March 30

7:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family  
(Time Change)

### Tuesday, March 31

9:00 a.m. Tony Kochol  
(Mack Girls)

### Wednesday, April 1 NO MASS

### Holy Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Good Friday, April 3

3:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

### Holy Saturday, April 4

8:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Easter Sunday, April 5

8:15 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Easter Sunday, April 5

10:30 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to pause our series on the sacraments to once again focus on Holy Week, this most important time of year for Christians. This weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday: Jesus entering Jerusalem as the Messiah, the Son of David, coming to inaugurate God's Kingdom, fulfilling the expectations of God's People in the Old Testament.

Later this week the season of Lent comes to a close and we enter the Sacred Triduum. On Holy Thursday we commemorate the Last Supper: Jesus institutes the Eucharist to make His saving death and resurrection present to us for all time. By this very act, He also institutes the priesthood. Good Friday commemorates our Lord's suffering and death, followed by Holy Saturday, a day of mourning but also hopeful anticipation. The Triduum comes to a climax at the Easter Vigil: the celebration of the Resurrection, which not only leads us into Easter Sunday, but the fifty-day Easter season.

Try to enter as deeply as possible into Holy Week. Attend as many of the liturgies as possible: the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Commemoration of the Passion on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Do not let these powerful days just be "business as usual." Although many of us may be unable to break free of work or other responsibilities, find ways to remain prayerfully focused on Holy Week and make these days special.

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

### Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study

... will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on **April 9, 23, May 7, 14**. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (\*Please email Father for the Zoom link: [kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org)).

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome.

### **We are always looking for new readers, altar servers, and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.**

Please consider if our Lord is calling you to one of these roles. Our current liturgical ministers are sometimes spread very thin, especially in the summer, making it difficult to fill the schedule. If you might be interested in one of these roles, please see Fr. Bobbin.

### Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



### Upcoming Events

#### March

- 29 9:00 p.m. CCD ..... L.H.
- 29 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy ..... L.H.
- 29 7:30 p.m. Dramatic Stations of the Cross Presentation..... Church

#### April

- 8 7:00 p.m. Ladies of the Rosary ..... L.H.
- 9 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study ..... L.H.
- 12 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class..... L.H.
- 15 7:00 a.m. Catholic Women’s Union Mtg ..... L.H.
- 19 9:00 a.m. CCD ..... L.H.
- 19 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy ..... L.H.
- 23 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study ..... L.H.
- 26 9:00 a.m. CCD ..... L.H.
- 26 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Children’s Liturgy ..... L.H.

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group ..... F.R.

<><><> MARK YOUR CALENDARS <><><>  
SUMMER FESTIVAL—July 17/18, 2026

### Weekly Collection

March 21/22 .....\$4,860.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Please **do not** use **tape** or **staples** to seal your offertory envelopes

### Liturgical Min. Schedule

#### April 2 — 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday

**Reader:** John Crane  
**EM:** Dan & Hermine Murphy  
**Servers:** Gerry Schwartz, Heidi Gorski, Gabriel Scheidel  
**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### April 3 — 3:00 p.m. Good Friday

**Reader:** Michelle Ambrose  
**EM:** Michael Ambrose  
**Servers:** Colin McGinley, John Crane  
**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### April 4 — 8:00 p.m.—Holy Saturday

**Readers:** Jeff Naffin, Vincent Balulis, Lucilla Kochol, Ann Blankenhorn  
**EM:** Dan & Hermine Murphy  
**Servers:** Cole, Cooper, Callie Felty, Sophia Palmieri  
**Cantor:** Vincent Prestileo  
**Sacristan:** R.J. Post

#### April 5 — 8:15 a.m. Easter Mass

**Reader:** Heidi Gorski  
**EM:** Gerry Schwartz, Bob Bechtel  
**Servers:** Maggie & Rhyann Brennan  
**Cantor:** Dave Derbes

#### April 5 — 10:30 a.m. Easter Mass

**Reader:** Michelle Ambrose  
**EM:** Michael Ambrose, Ray Petrilla  
**Servers:** Gabriel Scheidel, Colin McGinley  
**Cantor:** Dave Derbes  
**Sacristan:** R.J. Post

# TRULY, THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD

### Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population.

Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war and now the Iranian conflict have made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land and to maintain a Christian Presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS! For more information about Christians in the Holy Lane, visit [www.myfranciscan.org](http://www.myfranciscan.org) or [www.custodia.org](http://www.custodia.org).

### Blessed Palm

The Blessed Palm is known as a sacramental. We should not receive the Palm out of human respect with the rest of the faithful and then forget it or cast it away. The Blessed Palm in Catholic homes is a symbol of our Christian Faith. Let the Palm which you carry home from church on Palm Sunday become a constant reminder of the days ahead when your faith may be put to a test.



**NO CANDLE INTENTIONS DURING HOLY WEEK**



## Holy Week Schedule

### Palm Sunday, March 29

Masses  
Saturday 5 p.m. & Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.  
Dramatic Stations of the Cross • 7:30 p.m.

### Monday, March 30

Mass • 7 a.m.

### Tuesday, March 31

Mass • 9 a.m.

### Wednesday, April 1

No Mass  
(No Stations of the Cross)

### Holy Thursday, April 2

Mass • 7 p.m.  
Adoration after Mass until 10 p.m.

### Good Friday, April 3

Stations of the Cross • 12 Noon  
Good Friday Liturgy • 3 p.m.

### Holy Saturday, April 4

Blessing of Food Baskets • 12 noon in Church  
Easter Vigil Mass • 8 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, April 5

Masses • 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, March 29 • No Scheduled Confessions  
Monday, March 30 • Penance Service at St. Pat's • 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 31 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 4 • No Scheduled Confessions  
Sunday, April 5th • No Scheduled Confessions



## Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

## Prayer for our Troops Around the World

*"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior."*

## Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, would you please contact the Rectory Office at 622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update records!

## 2025 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2025 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext. 3.

## Church Decorating

### Volunteers Needed.

We will be decorating our church for Easter and would greatly appreciate some helping hands. If you are available to help with decorating, please join us on **Holy Saturday, April 4th at 12:30 p.m.** Your time and help make our church beautiful as we celebrate the joy of Easter. Thank you for sharing your time and talent!



## Catholic Charities

### **Sharing Compassion, Serving in Faith, Spreading Hope**

Services We Offer: Professional Counseling Services—Pregnancy & Parenting Support  
Immigration Legal Services—Supportive Services for Veterans & Families  
Basic Need Services—Rural Support Services—Food & Nutrition Hubs—Food Pantry  
Community Café Food Truck

Schuylkill County Office, 99 Valley St., New Philadelphia, 570-628-0466  
[www.catholiccharitiesad.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesad.org)

## There is hope in the battle against pornography.

Educate yourself, protect yourself and your family, and seek help and healing. Explore the resources offered by:

1. Integrity Restored ([integrityrestored.com](http://integrityrestored.com))
2. The Diocese of Allentown's Lumen Christi Commission ([adlumenchristi.org](http://adlumenchristi.org))
3. Or contact Fr. Bobbin for a confidential appointment.



March 29, 2026

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mt 21:1-11 | Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mt 26:14—27:66

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Pay attention to the prominence of Scripture in today's Mass. At Masses where there's a Procession or the Solemn Entrance, we'll hear the Gospel reading proclaiming Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. During our regular Liturgy of the Word, we'll also read through the lengthy account of Christ's passion (this year, from the Gospel of Matthew). Following the reading of the passion a brief homily may be given, but there may also be a period of silence rather than a homily. In so many ways, it seems that beginning with Palm Sunday (and all throughout Holy Week), the Church is inviting us to feast on God's Word in a deeper way than perhaps at any other time in the liturgical year. As disciples, our whole Christian life must be nourished not only by the sacraments, but by the Word of God. As Lent comes to a close, we can think back to our Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent, where Jesus tells us that "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4) The events we hear about during this time are the climactic moments in the unfolding plan of our salvation. By reading the Gospel accounts, we're invited to *participate* in them through this liturgy which makes them present to us, here and now.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul's Letter to the Philippians speaks of Jesus' self-emptying love. Although he was God, Jesus took on our humanity and offered his life in humble obedience to the Father, accepting, willfully, even death on a cross. When we consider our efforts to lead others to know the Lord, we're invited to adopt his own way of reaching out to humanity. Do we enter into the lived experience of those we seek to evangelize? In what ways do we empty (humble) ourselves in order to draw near to them? Are we willing to set aside our plans, our agenda, our way of doing things, and willingly accept God's way of doing things? Following the example of our Lord, our own efforts at evangelization should be marked by humility and self-emptying love.

### **STUDY**

One of the best ways we can participate in the celebration of these sacred days is to spend time reading the Scriptures for each day of Holy Week. Read the text, then sit in silence, allowing the words to wash over you. What moments or lines stand out to you? As you re-read the Gospel of Christ's passion, read the words knowing that Jesus has done all of this *for you*.

